

Denies to End He Had Part in Any Conspiracy

Dallas, Jan. 3 [Special]—Death today closed the lips of Jack Ruby, a leading figure in the events surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy and the killer of the ac-



Jack Ruby

cused assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald.

Ruby, 55, a one-time tough kid from Chicago, died this morning. The end came in the Parkland Memorial hospital, the same place where both President Kennedy and Oswald breathed their last three years ago.

Clot Reaches Lung

An autopsy disclosed the cause of death was a blood clot. Dr. Eugene Frenkel said a clot broke loose in Ruby's right leg and coursed into his lungs. The autopsy also showed extensive cancer in both lungs and in the lymph nodes and liver.

Nearly 20 medical specialists were at the bedside, giving closed heart massage and oxygen but the blood clot was more than they could overcome. A witness of the autopsy estimated the clot stretched from Ruby's ankle to his pelvis and plugged the entire artery before it broke free and lodged in his lungs.

The death of Ruby, whose

conviction of killing Oswald was overturned by an appeals court, sent the assassination into history without a single criminal conviction on the books for the crimes.

In Hospital Since Dec. 9

It also came amid renewed discussion and criticism of the Warren commission's investigation of a controversy which might not have existed if Ruby hadn't killed Oswald and which persisted despite Ruby's pleas to the world to believe there was nothing more than the account he gave.

The balding, former Dallas nightclub owner, who had been taken to the hospital from his jail cell last Dec. 9, sank into a coma and died peacefully at

[Continued on page 2, col. 2]

[Continued from first page]

10:30 a. m. central standard time.

"Jack's dead, he died very peacefully," said his sister, Mrs. Eva Grant, who, with a brother, Earl, of Detroit, and another sister, Mrs. Eileen Kaminsky, of Chicago, were with him at the end.

Too Extensive for Surgery

When Ruby was taken to the hospital nearly a month ago, he was reported to be suffering from pneumonia. But it was soon announced that he was ravaged by cancer so widespread it could not be stopped by surgery. Doctors tried various drugs thruout Ruby's last days.

Phil Burleson, his Dallas attorney, who also was near the bedside when Ruby died, told of the patient's final hours.

"I saw Jack last evening shortly before 7," Burleson said.

"He looked very weak and appeared to me to have lost a lot of weight. He talked very strong. I think the last thing we talked about was some mutual friends who had sent messages to him thru me."

Took Pauper's Oath

Burleson said that as far as he knew, Ruby "didn't have any estate of consequence." Burleson said he didn't know about a

will. He recalled that Ruby took a pauper's oath to get the state to pay for the transcript of his trial for appeal purposes.

"Of course Jack died not a convicted man," Burleson said.

District Atty. Henry Wade said that because of the death he would dismiss the murder charge that had been pending against Ruby.

The death also permitted divulgence of previously assembled information about Ruby's last days in prison. From attorneys, relatives, and friends who visited him it was learned that, as death approached, Ruby's paramount interest was making people believe he was not hiding anything about Oswald's killing.

Denied Any Conspiracy

He wanted to be given a lie detector test and did make a secret tape recording, reportedly on a recorder smuggled in a briefcase into his hospital room in recent weeks.

To the edge of death, Ruby denied he was involved in a conspiracy when, in full view of millions of television viewers, he jabbed a snub-nosed revolver into Oswald's abdomen and killed him with one shot in a Dallas police station on Nov. 24, 1963, two days after President Kennedy's slaying.

But even members of his family couldn't help asking.

His brother, Earl, said he asked, near the end: "Are you sure, Jack, there was nothing else?" Earl said Jack replied:

"I'm not hiding anything. I'm not protecting anybody. There is nothing to hide, no one to protect. Believe me."

Hallucinations Bared

As he lay in his guarded room in the hospital, Ruby was tormented by hallucinations. He imagined that millions of American Jews were being slain as punishment because

he, a Jew, silenced the Presidents accused assassin.

He though Jews were being transported to Dallas and tortured to death in the basement of the Dallas county jail. His brother, Earld, told him: "That's not true, Jack, it's just not true." Many others he ordinarily trusted told him the same thing. But Jack wouldn't believe them.

"Don't tell me," they said he replied. "I hear screaming from the basement every night."

Jack also complained that his poor health had been induced purposely. When he experienced difficulty breathing early in December and was taken to the hospital, he took this as proof that mustard gas was being seeped into his cell.

Suspected Cancer Injection

When his condition was diagnosed as cancer, he was certain it had been injected into him.

Altho members of his family complained that his condition had been neglected in its early stages, they praised the treatment Ruby received in the Parkland hospital.

Those closest to Ruby said he could be rational on certain levels and wholly irrational on others. For example, he might be watching a football game on television and a penalty assessed in the game would touch him off and cause him to rant about the things he believed were being done to Jews.

He swore that lies invented by "monserem," a Yiddish epithet, were responsible for rumors linking him to supposed secret meetings connected with the assassination.

Puzzled by Suspicions

Elmer Gertz, a Chicago attorney prominent on the legal team that won reversal of the death sentence imposed upon Ruby in 1964, said Ruby was puzzled by the continued suspicion about his role.

"He simply could not conceive that people could not see that he not only acted alone but that they could take this and twist it into a premise for giving him a role in a plot against the President, a man he worshipped," Gertz said.

He said Ruby sought no forgiveness for shooting Oswald, adding: "I don't think Jack mentioned his name more than a few times in the many times I saw him, and then it was as if Oswald were a figure beyond his comprehension."

"Jack saw himself as a kind of instrument. He did not have the delusion that God told him to do it, or that he was an in-



[AP Wirephoto]

Peter Geilich, assistant administrator of Parkland hospital in Dallas, telephoning sheriff's office yesterday to announce the death of Jack Ruby.

strument of any people, but that it happened without his conscious will."

Asked for Lie Test

One of Ruby's last requests in the hospital was for a lie detector test which he hoped would prove beyond any doubt that he was not involved in any conspiracy. But polygraph experts and doctors said the advanced state of his cancer and the drugs used for treating it would make such a test meaningless.

In the secret recording made in his hospital room, Ruby emphatically insisted he never had known or even seen Oswald before, informed sources said. Capital Records announced in New York that it was putting out a 46 minute record entitled "The Assassination" in which Ruby's talk will take three minutes.

Informed sources said his account on the record, given in halting phrases, included these statements:

"All I did was walk down there, down to the bottom of the ramp [below the police station] and that's when the incident happened—at the bottom of the ramp . . . it happened in such a blur that . . . before I knew it I was down on the ground. The officers had me on the ground . . . I can't recall what happened from the time I came to the bottom of the ramp until the police officers had me on the ground."

Mentions Illegal Turn

"The ironic part of this is, hadn't I made an illegal turn behind the bus to the parking

lot, had I gone the way I was supposed to go straight down Main street, I'd of never, I would never have met this fate because the difference in meeting this fate was 30 seconds on way or the other."

Ruby's life was lived on the drab fringes of the underworld and the slums from which he started life but he never served time in prison until he killed Oswald.

He was born March 25, 1911, in the Maxwell st. slum of Chicago, the sixth of nine children born to Joe Rubenstein, an immigrant Polish carpenter, and his wife, Fannie. Jack later changed his name from Rubenstein.

Always Winning Fights

Jack was nicknamed "Sparky" because of his quick temper and his willingness to engage in street brawls. Even at the age of 10, his brothers recalled, he was getting into fights and winning them.

When he was 12 his parents separated and he was placed in a foster home. He dropped out of high school at 16 and worked at odd jobs such as scalping tickets to sports events. In 1933 he moved to San Francisco and sold newspaper subscriptions door to door.

Returning to Chicago four years later, he helped organize a junkyard workers union. When his partner in the union died, Jack went back to selling anything he could until he was drafted in 1941. He was trained as an army air forces mechanic and was discharged in 1946 without having gone overseas.

Opens Two Night Clubs

In 1947 he came to Dallas where he joined his sister, Eva, and they opened two night clubs. Jack spent most of his time with the downtown strip joint, the Carousel club. It closed a few weeks after his arrest.

Quick tempered thruout his life, he was involved in several fights and minor criminal charges but he never got into major trouble until he walked into the police station where the President's accused assassin was on exhibit.



Jack Ruby, who died of blood clot yesterday in Dallas, pictured (arrow) as he fired shot that killed Lee Harvey Oswald, slayer of President Kennedy, in Dallas city jail on Nov. 24, 1963, two days after the assassination.

[AP Wirephoto: Copyright—Dallas Times-Herald]



The day after he shot Lee Harvey Oswald, Jack Ruby was led from Dallas city jail to the county jail where he was to spend most of his remaining life.



[AP Wirephotos]

During a recess in his trial in March, 1964, Ruby pointed a finger at a reporter in a gesture similar to the one he made as he fired revolver at Oswald.